

AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH SYSTEM

Learning Intention:

Understanding elements of Australia's Health System

Success Criteria:

I will know what PBS is

I know the benefits of Private health insurance

I will know how to fund the health system

PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME

The pharmaceutical Benefits scheme (PBS) is the Federal Government's subsidy scheme for essential medicines.

There is a list of over 2600 brands of prescription medicine that are covered by PBS, although this includes different brands of the same medicine.



FIGURE 10.5 The PBS makes many essential medicines affordable.

- The co-payment for most PBS- subsidised medication is \$36.10 or \$5.90 for concession card holders. (2013)
- The government pays the remaining costs. These amounts are adjusted each year on 1 January in line with inflation.
- Some drugs are not covered by the PBS. Patients must pay the full price to use these drugs

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

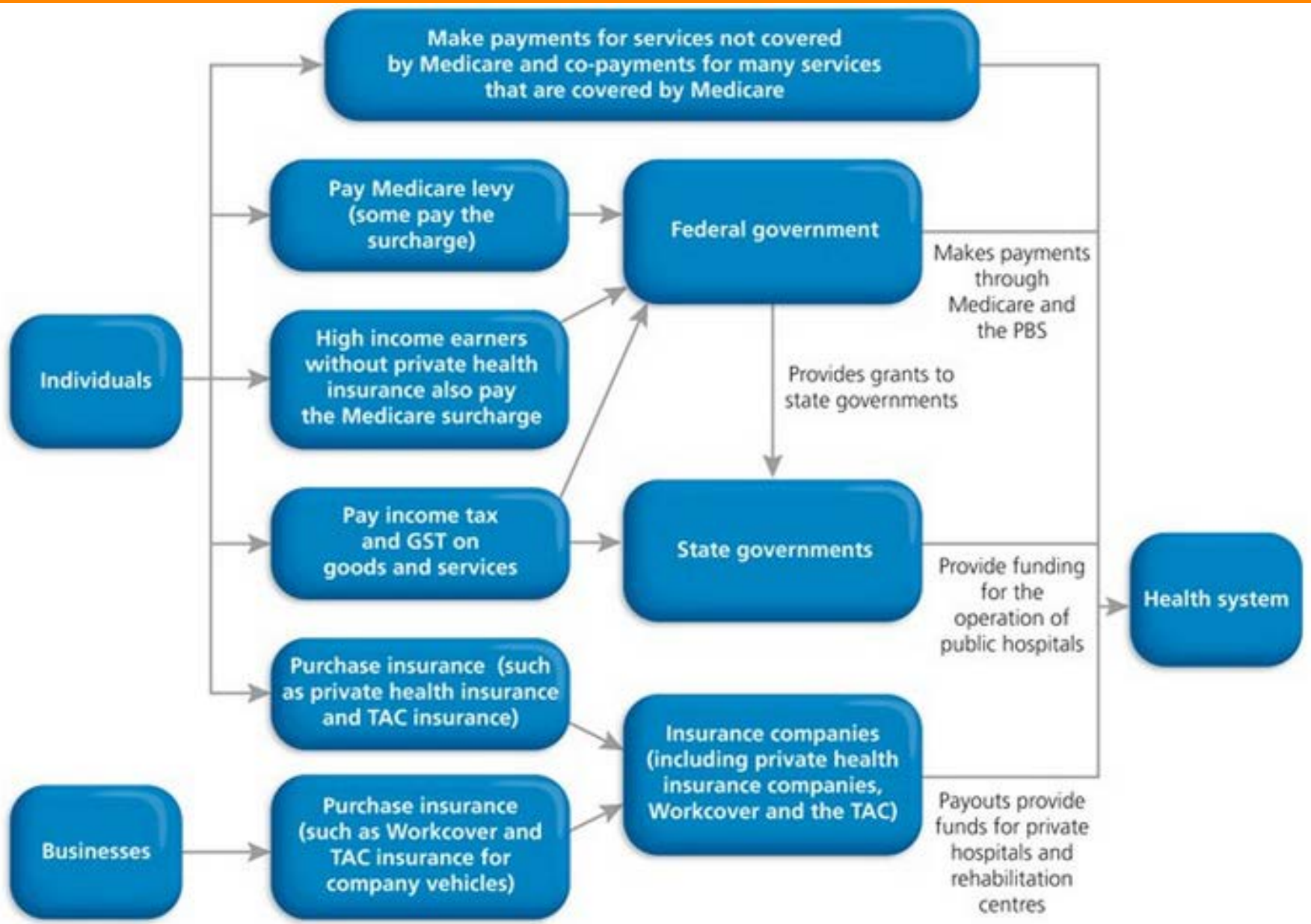
Private health insurance is form of insurance in which a member pays a premium to the insurance company.

It is an optional insurance that is paid for in addition to the Medicare levy.

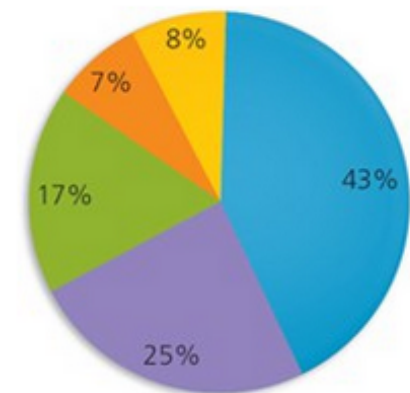
In return, the insurance company agrees to pay for some or all of the health-related costs incurred by the member that are not covered by Medicare.

FUNDING THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Australia's Health system is funded by a combination of government, private sector and individual payments.



Around two thirds of the funding for the health system comes from government (Federal and state combined) with the other third coming from the private sector



■ Federal Government
■ State government
■ Individual payments
■ Health insurance funds
■ Other

Source: Based on data from Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010, *Australia's health 2010*, cat. no. AUS 122, Canberra, pp. 414–15.

FIGURE 10.7 Health system funds as a percentage of total health expenditure, by source, 2007–08

PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE

Preventative health care takes all components of health into consideration, promotes healthy lifestyle choices and focuses on groups rather than the individual.

Primary Prevention:

The aim of primary prevention is to prevent the onset of illness, injury and or disease.

Education, raising awareness and promoting healthy lifestyles are key factors in primary prevention.

Secondary Prevention:

The aim of secondary prevention is to detect and treat illness at the earliest time possible. It is often directed at people who are at risk of a particular disease but have not fully developed it.

YOUR TURN

Choose one age population we have covered so far this year:

- 1. Youth**
- 2. Child**
- 3. Adult**

Research and find One primary preventative organisation or campaign and One Secondary preventative actions

Answer the following for each type of preventative:

- 1. What illness, injury or disease is the target**
- 2. What is the aim of the prevention**
- 3. In your opinion is the prevention successful. Explain why or why not.**
- 4. Is there evidence that this prevention has worked. (Can you find any Data?)**

HUMAN RIGHTS AND ETHICS

Learning Intention:

Gain knowledge of a range of issues facing Australia's health system

Success Criteria:

I will know the issues facing the health care system

I will know human rights and ethics